

# TODDLERS

## READ

### In English

*Birds* (2009) by Kevin Henkes and Laura Dronzek. An enchanting story about a girl who sings while watching birds and imagines herself in flight. Good for preschoolers as well.

*Feet (Whose Is It?)* (2019) by Katrine Crow. A toddler guessing game for an interactive storytime. A good book to pair with the paw-matching activity below.

*Hilda Must Be Dancing* (2004) by Karma Wilson and Suzanne Watts. Hilda the hippo loves to dance, but the other animals want her to find a quieter hobby. Good for a dance-themed storytime.

*Hooray for Birds* (2017) by Lucy Cousins. Exuberant colors and rhymes make this a perfect storytime choice. Encourages movement.

*I'm in Charge* (2018) by Jeanne Willis and Jarvis. A bossy little rhino throws his weight around. A vibrant and charming read-aloud perfect for the “terrible twos.”

*Jump, Frog, Jump!* (1989) by Robert Kalan and Byron Burton. Classic cumulative tale perfect to get toddlers jumping. Spanish version also available.

*One Big Pair of Underwear* (2018) by Laura Gehl and Tom Lichtenheld. Bears in underwear who hate to share. A silly rhymers.

*One Fox: A Counting Book Thriller* (2019) by Kate Read. Lively alliteration in this engaging read-aloud.

*A Parade of Elephants* (2018) by Kevin Henkes. Five joyful elephants march from dawn until dusk. A great group read.

*Roar! A Noisy Counting Book* (2000) by Pamela Duncan Edwards and Henry Cole. A rollicking poem about a rambunctious lion cub.

*Snakes on a Train* (2019) by Kathryn Dennis. Vibrant rhymes and word play in this bold book about truly adorable snakes. Children are sure to want to join in on the fun, hissing refrain.

*Spunky Little Monkey* (2017) by Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson. Great book for getting the wiggles out through stomps, claps, and cheers. Great rhyme and rhythm.

*Starry Safari* (2005) by Linda Ashman and Jeff Mack. Rich pictures, onomatopoeic rhymes, and quick action make this a great storytime choice.

*Tiny Little Fly* (2010) by Michael Rosen and Kevin Waldron. A little fly irritates all the wild animals. Dynamic illustrations; to add movement, have toddlers shoo away pretend flies.

*Underwear!* (2020) by Jenn Harney. Rhymes galore in this story about a bear who would rather play with his tighty whities than go to bed. Pair with *One Big Pair of Underwear* for a bears-in-underwear theme.

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### Bilingual/Spanish

*Opuestos: Mexican Folk Art Opposites in English and Spanish.* (2017) by Cynthia Weill. Another book of opposites; this one from the creators of AbeCedarios Compelling hand-carved folk art illustrations. (Bilingual)

*Marta! Big & Small* (2016) by Jen Arena and Angela Dominguez. Marta explores the jungle and meets animals of all sizes. A fun read-aloud that teaches toddlers about opposites. (English with Spanish words)

*Rubia and the Three Osos* (2010) by Susan Middleton Elya and Melissa Sweet. Bouncy rhymes and scattered Spanish words make this an excellent read-aloud. Also great for preschoolers. (English with Spanish words)

*Salta, ranita, salta!* (1994) by Robert Kalan. Classic cumulative tale perfect to get toddlers jumping. (Spanish; also available in English)

## SING

### Rhyme: Five Little Owls

Lyrics here: <https://bit.ly/2WtgRjo>

Five little owls on a dark, dark night.  
Five little owls are quite a sight.  
Five little owls, are you keeping score?  
One flies away and that leaves four.  
Four little owls are as happy as can be.  
One flies away and that leaves three.  
Three little owls calling, "Hoo, hoo, hoo!"  
One flies away and that leaves two.  
Two little owls having lots of fun.  
One flies away and that leaves one.  
One little owl and we're almost done!  
He flies away and that leaves none!

### Rhyme: Two Little Butterflies

See video from Jbrary here: <https://bit.ly/2WUc0qa>

Two little butterflies sitting on a hill  
One name Jack, and one name Jill  
Fly away Jack, Fly away Jill  
Come back Jack, Come back Jill

Verses:

Cloud... soft...loud  
Stick... slow... quick  
Sky... low...high

## BILINGUAL EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Bilingual brains have an edge! Speaking two languages benefits brain development, giving children a larger vocabulary, more flexible problem-solving skills, and higher cognitive ability. Encourage Spanish-speaking caregivers to read to their children in both languages at home.

### English/Spanish:

five little owls = cinco pequeños búhos

owl = la lechuza

### English/Spanish:

two little butterflies = dos pequeñas mariposas

**TODDLERS****Sing: Hola Arturito**

To the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

¡El loro va a hablar!  
El loro va a comer  
¡Hay que rico esta!  
¡El loro va a comer!  
El loro va a cantar  
La, la, la, la, la, la  
¡El loro va a cantar!

**PLAY / TAKE HOME****Paw High-Five Numbers**

Print 10 copies of the paw template and number the paws 1 to 10. Tape the paws to the wall at toddler height. Call out a number and encourage toddlers to give a high-five to the paw corresponding to that number. This activity can also be adapted to colors (with brightly colored printer paper), shapes, letters, uppercase vs. lowercase letters, or even sight words for preschoolers. For a twist, tape the paw prints on the floor and ask children to stomp on them.

**Paws or Claws**

Print animal paws/claws on cardstock and laminate them for durability. Paws should be large enough for children’s feet to fit inside. You will need six copies each of three distinct paws or claws (e.g. bear, bird, horse). Line them up in three rows of six; when you call out the animal name, toddlers find and step on that animal’s paws or claws. Depending on size of the group, children can take turns or play as a group.

**Spot the Giraffe**

Give caregivers the Spot the Giraffe printable to take home. Toddlers put spots on the giraffe using dry food (e.g., cheerios, macaroni, beans, etc.) or magnets and a baking sheet. This can also be adapted for many different animals and/or a library play activity.

**English/Spanish:**

el loro = parrot

**EARLY LITERACY TIP:**

Learning to recognize pictures, such as those of animal paws, builds up letter recognition skills.

**English/Spanish:**

paw high-five = pata de cinco

TODDLERS

**PRINTABLE**

**Paw High-Five Print**



PRINTABLE

Paws or Claws



**PRINTABLE**

**Spot the Giraffe**

